



**REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, September 28, 2010**  
**MINUTES**

- CALL TO ORDER at 10:01 AM with members of both consortia present,
- MINUTES for August, 2010 approved by consensus.
- STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT
  - NOFA Update – Members received a handout highlighting specific items requiring action by the agencies prior to the 2010 CoC Application for funds. These include: advertisements in newsletters and on websites; review of Section 3 and Energy Star participation; and educational assurances. The **Funding Opportunity Number** is FR-5415-N-17 and **CFDA Numbers:** TH, SH, PH, PSH = 14.235 ; Shelter + Care = 14.238

**Definitions:**

- The definition of chronically homeless person is expanded to include families with at least one member who has a disabling condition; the family must meet all the other standards for chronic homelessness in Section 4.d of this NOFA
- Institutional release rule is extended from 30 days to 90 days, i.e. a person in a publicly funded institution who entered from a homeless situation qualifies as homeless if released in up to 90 days
- Permanent Housing providers are reminded that the only persons who are eligible to be served in PH projects are those who came from streets, emergency shelter, safe havens, or transitional housing. The 30-90 day institutions rule does not qualify. For projects funded under the prior rule, participants who leave the program must be replaced persons meeting the revised eligibility standard.
- Safe Havens funded prior to 2008 that were not subject to renewal in 2008 or 2009 are required to reclassify their projects (there is no longer SH-TH or SH-PH).

**New Requirements:**

- Educational assurances will be required with local education agencies to assure identification of homeless families, assurance that children in emergency or transitional shelter are close as possible to school of origin, that applicants providing services to families with children have staff designated to assure conformance with education subtitle of McKinney-Vento; these educational assurances will be required in Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2
- **Local Process Calendar – Federal Deadline:** Deadline is November 18 at 8:59 AM San Diego time. HUD cautioned – submit at least 48 hours in advance of deadline. Which means sending to HUD no later than November 16. Please see Handout for other key dates.
- **Local Rating and Review** – New Project Process – Holly Younghans

- **Educational Assurances** – Handout - Laurin Pause. In August the RCCC authorized a task oriented group chaired by Laurin Pause to draft an Educational Assurances policy for the CoC and compile guidelines or best practices for use by the agencies. *Action:* The Educational Assurance Policy statement and requirements below were adopted by the RCCC. Additional information and best practices are included in the policy document distributed at the meeting. (attached).

### **Continuum of Care (COC) Policy**

Consistent with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Part C of the McKinney-Vento Act, San Diego's Regional County Continuum of Care (RCCC) has established a *Best Practices* policy to ensure that every homeless child remains enrolled in the school of their original primary residence prior to becoming homeless or become enrolled in a school located in the proximity of the shelter provider. In order to effectively administer this policy, every provider of homeless services shall be properly trained in the components of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of the McKinney Vento Act in order to advocate to homeless families and their children. In addition, every service provider shall establish a written policy that demonstrates their commitment in considering the educational needs of children of families placed in emergency or transitional shelter and designate an advocate to ensure children are enrolled in school and are receiving entitled benefits.

### **Educational Assurance Requirements**

All HUD-funded programs serving households with children (including child-only households or youth on their own) will adopt an agency policy that complies with Part C of the McKinney-Vento Act and is consistent with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Programs will ensure that a copy of this policy is filed with the Lead Agent for the Continuum of Care prior to submittal of a request for funds under any CoC funding opportunity.

All HUD-funded programs serving households with children (including child-only households or youth on their own) will designate a staff person to ensure that children are enrolled in school as part of the agency educational assurances policy.

- **Veterans Demonstration Project** Grantee Update– VVSD, ICS, SVdP – The deadline for submitting the project plan has been pushed back by one week. Veterans Village of San Diego and partners, Interfaith Community Services and Father Joe's Villages have developed a plan and are working with the Veterans Administration and Department of Labor contacts to finalize the interagency plans. VVSD staff are participating in phone conferences with other grantees. VVSD thanked the RCCC for selecting them as the grantee.
- **Hearth High Performing Communities** – In August the RCCC started discussing how to establish the baselines needed under the Hearth Act. Members are advised that part of the information is now contained in AHAR reports available on line at [HMIS.info](http://HMIS.info).
- **Request to Rename Housing Liaison Group:** Over several years the role of what was originally the 'housing liaisons' has expanded to include participation in several

strategic planning efforts which stimulated a request to rename the Housing Liaisons as Strategic Planning Liaisons. RCCC members view these activities as more than communication liaisons. *Action:* The RCCC voted to rename the efforts as a Strategic Planning Group rather than Housing Liaisons.

- **HUD Conference in Denver** – Anne Kerr – Although the final guidelines for HEARTH were not available for the HUD conference in Denver, it is clear that data and outcomes are a major focus for HUD. Congratulations to the CoC members, the RTFH and data partners Father Joes Villages and the Institute for Public Health for winning a national award for “Herculean efforts” in AHAR data.
- **Vulnerability Study Results and Next Steps** – Matt Doherty – The Vulnerability Index Downtown Registry week report was distributed. Among the highlights: approximately 1,000 persons were observed in the 450 block included in the downtown catchment area, and 737 agreed to be participate in the survey. Of those surveyed, 163 (22%) were female; 574 (78%) male; and 5 (0.06%) of the transgendered.
- 279 (38%) were found to be vulnerable based upon health conditions and/or other indicators associated with a high mortality risk for homeless persons. In order to be potentially scored as “vulnerable,” a survey respondent must have been homeless for at least 6 months. Then, depending upon how many At-Risk Indicators are found, a survey respondent’s Vulnerability Index score can range from 0 (for no At-Risk Indicators) to a high of 8 (a score not yet found among any survey respondents nationally).

Among the resources for those identified as vulnerable include: Veteran VASH vouchers, Special needs Section 8 vouchers from the Housing Commission; MHSA full service partnerships from County HHSA; 10 PSH units from Alpha; outreach services from St. Stephen’s and Family Health Centers. RCCC members and other service providers are encouraged to consider how they can participate in the project. Joint planning meeting between the Registry week Services Committee and providers is beginning. Contact Matt Doherty, Le Sar Development or Simonne Ruff, CSH for more information.

- **SUBCOMMITTEE and LIAISON REPORTS**

- Legislative Committee – Rosemary Johnston, Kathi Houck

**Federal Legislative Report: Continuum of Care NOFA released:** HUD NOFA for the 2010 Continuum of Care (CoC) includes several focus areas and changes, including collaboration and planning with local educational programs and special programs offered under the ARRA initiatives. Chronically homeless individuals and families, veterans, and rural areas are priorities for bonus funding.

HUD is encouraging CoCs to begin preparing for changes to the McKinney-Vento program under the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act. HUD recommends NOFA that communities: Begin to ready their Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) for HEARTH implementation; strategize about how to collect the performance measures and outcomes required under

the HEARTH Act at the local level; consider merging with other CoCs if they have applied and have not been awarded grants in the past; and carefully read the HEARTH Act and other HUD publications related to the HEARTH Act.

**Hill Update:** For the balance of 2010, Congress is expected to work on numerous issues, including the continuation of the appropriations process and legislation related to the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) and homeless veterans, and extending the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Emergency Contingency Fund (TANF ECF).

**HPRP update:** The Alliance's Homelessness Research Institute (HRI) released its third *Quarterly Leadership Council Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) Report*, which documents the progress in 13 cities. The report, shows that over \$40 million has been spent to serve approximately 92,000 persons in the reporting cities, and shows that rental assistance, case management, and housing search and placement are the types of support that are most frequently provided.

**Homeless Voter Registration Week Set for September 26–October 2:** Local organizations are encouraged to participate in the annual National Homeless and Low Income Voter Registration Week September 26–October 2, sponsored by National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH).

**State Legislative Report :** The state's 2009 poverty rate jumped to 15.3%, the highest rate in 11 years. The U.S. rate jumped to 14.3 %, up by 2%. AB2536 which allows supportive housing providers to apply for unused capital funds in the Emergency Housing Assistance Program is currently being considered; AB602 extends the statute of limitations for cities and counties to enforce their housing elements to five years from 90 days; and AB2293(requires state HCD(housing and community development) office to reserve funds for program awardees that have not been able to secure a private construction loan thereby ensuring lenders their construction loan will be repaid. **Still no state budget.** No one knows how much longer it will take...Los Angeles county has launched a **veterans court**. There are more than 30 courts nationwide.

**Local:** The city council of San Diego decided to postpone a decision on the location of a winter shelter tent in downtown San Diego until Oct. 4 at 6 p.m. Data to be released by the Regional Task Force on the Homeless reveals that 74% of the homeless population(sheltered and unsheltered) live in District Two which includes downtown

**A Council hearing on the Connections San Diego** year round shelter and intake facility proposal for the World Trade Center building is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5. **Data Governance** – Craig Jones; Peter Callstrom- The Regional Homeless Profile is nearing completion. This year the profile has added some new sections including a look at the AHAR and national information. It is expected that the RHP will be approved for distribution shortly.

- **Housing Federation-** Susan Riggs Tinsky has been selected as the new Executive Director the San Diego Housing Federation

- **Project Homeless Connect-** The PHC for central San Diego is being considered for early January. A North County Coastal event is looking for a venue, hopefully for December. There is a possibility that it could be linked to an event that Community Resource Center has at the Del Mar Fair grounds in December.
  - **PTECH** (Home Again) –The request for proposals for the Frequent Users Initiative was released with a due date in early October and a plan to select a grantee by the end of October. The Home Again (PTECH) Board is re-establishing subgroups for ongoing work. The subgroups will be centered around different activities than the past groups.
- ADJOURN

**NEXT MEETING**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2010  
10:00 AM**

**National University  
9388 Lightwave Avenue  
San Diego, CA. 92123**